

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 7-11 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 8 are amended; and Claims 5-6 are canceled by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1, 3, 7, and 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,699,474, hereinafter “Suzuki”); and Claims 2 and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Suzuki and further in view of Eerenberg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,621,979, hereinafter “Eerenberg”).

Independent Claims 1, 7, and 8 are amended to incorporate the features of now canceled dependent Claim 5. In the outstanding Official Action, Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Suzuki and further in view of Eerenberg. Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1, 7, and 8 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 1 relates to a transmitting apparatus for converting a coded bit stream into a trick play output (e.g., fast forward, fast rewind, etc.) and sending the coded bit stream to a transmission path. The apparatus includes an accumulating means for accumulating the coded bit stream including an intra-frame coded picture, a forward predictive-coded picture, and a bidirectionally predictive-coded picture. The apparatus also includes an output control means for controlling an output of the coded bit stream in an output mode corresponding to a designated trick play operation, and a rewriting means for

¹ e.g., specification, original Claim 5.

rewriting control data which specifies a display order of the pictures with respect to the coded bit stream. A picture forming means then forms a picture obtained by copying a predetermined picture and an output means outputs the picture whose control data has been written and the formed picture in accordance with the control of the output control means.

Independent Claim 1 is further amended to recite, *inter alia*, wherein

...by repeating processes such that after the intra-frame coded picture and the forward predictive-coded picture which repetitively appear at intervals (m), the copied pictures of the number larger than said (m) are outputted, ***the coded bit stream is outputted by a slow operation.***

Independent Claims 7 and 8, while directed to alternative embodiments, are amended to recite substantially similar features. Accordingly, the arguments presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 1, 7, and 8.

In addressing the “slow operation” feature noted above, the outstanding Official Action relies on col. 2, lines 1-29 of Eerenberg.² The cited portion of Eerenberg describes an apparatus for recording a digital video information signal on a record carrier. Specifically, the apparatus of Eerenberg includes a means for receiving a digital information signal and a trick play signal generating means for generating a trick play signal from the digital video information signal so as to enable a trick play reproduction at a speed m times the normal reproduction speed, where m is an integer larger than 1. Thus, Eerenberg specifically describes that the trick play reproduction occurs at a speed more than one times the nominal reproduction speed (i.e., high-speed reproduction).

In contrast, amended independent Claim 1 recites that the claimed processes are repeated such that after the intra-frame coded picture and the forward predictive-coded picture which repetitively appear at intervals (m), the copies pictures of the number larger than said (m) are outputted, ***the coded bit stream is outputted by a slow operation.***

² Outstanding Official Action, p. 6.

In contrast, as discussed above, Eerenberg describes that his apparatus enables a trick play reproduction at a speed m times the nominal reproduction speed, where m is an integer larger than 1. Thus, Eerenberg describes that his apparatus is configured to perform a trick play reproduction by reproducing the digital video information at a speed more than 1 times the nominal reproduction speed (i.e., high-speed reproduction operation).

Thus, Eerenberg clearly fails to teach or suggest outputting copied pictures of a number larger than (m) between intervals of outputted forward predictive-coded picture and intra-frame coded pictures to output the coded bit stream *by a slow operation*, as recited in independent Claim 1.

Further, Suzuki is not relied upon to address this claimed feature. Nonetheless, Suzuki describes a method and apparatus for decoding MPEG-type data reproduced from recording medium during a high-speed reproduction operation. Further, Suzuki describes various methods for performing the high-speed reproduction of the input video signal.

Therefore, neither Suzuki nor Eerenberg, neither alone, nor in combination, teach or suggest a video reproduction process that repeats processes such that after the intra-frame coded picture and the forward predictive-coded picture which repetitively appeared intervals (m) , the copied pictures of the number larger than said (m) are outputted, *the coded bit stream is outputted by a slow operation*, as recited in independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn. For substantially similar reasons, Applicants submit that independent Claims 7 and 8 patentably define over the applied references.

Claims 2 and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Suzuki and further in view of Eerenberg. As noted above, independent Claim 1 recites novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references. Similarly,

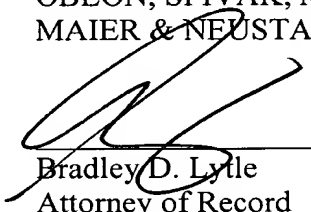
dependent Claims 2 and 4 include these above distinguished limitations by virtue of dependency.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections of Claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-4 and 7-11 patentably define over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested

Respectfully submitted,

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